



ACTION PROGRAM



A C T I O N

Bite off more than you can chew, then chew it. Plan more than you can do, then do it.

Anonymous

BACKGROUND FOR BASIS OF ACTION

The Macomb Planning & Economic Development Department worked together with the Parks and Recreation Department to gather and organize information and data regarding Macomb County and the region. Data was collected from a variety of sources including: County staff, the U.S. Census Bureau, County GIS, the previous Recreation Master Plan, adjacent Counties, and field observation.

The Community Description chapter includes a brief introduction to the County, its regional setting, the jurisdiction of the Plan and the overall focus and purpose for the Plan.

The Administrative Structure chapter of the Recreation and Open Space Plan describes how the County Parks system is managed, operated, and maintained. This includes information regarding the Parks Department organizational structure, staff responsibilities, as well as a fiscal analysis of the last few years revenues and expenditures as it relates to parks and recreation staff, programs, and facilities.

The Recreation Inventory chapter of the Plan includes a description of the facilities at the two County Parks: Freedom Hill and the Macomb Orchard Trail. A facilities inventory was conducted in the Summer of 2006. The location of the two parks is described and mapped, as well as the various programs and events offered by the County Parks Department. The Inventory section also describes recreation opportunities and facilities within the County that are provided by others such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority and local entities.

BASIS FOR ACTION

The Basis for Action chapter of this plan outlines and describes the variety of factors and issues that are happening within the County and within the region that have an affect on the provision of recreation facilities and open space. The contents of this chapter provide the foundation and validation for the goals, objectives and capital improvements desired over the next five years. Several factors affect the provision of recreation including previous and on-going studies, recreation trends, comparison of County Park acreage to other County systems in the region, demographic shifts and areas of growth, as well as input gathered from the public and staff.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

A public workshop was held on October 10, 2006 at the Macomb Intermediate School District Building in Clinton Township. Approximately 23 people attended the workshop. The goals for the workshop were to:

- Raise awareness that Macomb County is working on updating the 5-year Recreation & Open Space Plan.
- Gather public input as it relates to:
 - Desires for additional County Parks
 - Desires, issues, and concerns regarding the Macomb Orchard Trail
 - Desires, issues, and concerns regarding Freedom Hill
- Begin to gauge the public's priorities for the County Park System.

Attendees were asked to present their thoughts and desires for the County Parks system. At the end of the discussion session, participants identified their top 2 priority issues for additional parks, top 2 priorities for the Macomb Orchard Trail, and the top 2 priorities for Freedom Hill. The results of this workshop were utilized to assist in developing goals, objectives, and suggested capital improvements. (Appendix A)

ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan chapter of the report outlines the direction that the County would like to take over the next five years. The Action Plan includes goal statements for particular topics including Acquisition, Natural Resources, Facility Development and Improvement, Maintenance and Operation, Connectivity, Funding, Partnerships, and Communication and Advocacy. For each goal, multiple objectives were developed to provide more detail and action oriented recommendations. The County considers the goals and objectives to be just as important and significant as the capital improvements schedule. The capital improvements schedule details particular projects the County is interested in pursuing and implementing over the next five years.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the draft plan at their meeting on January, 10, 2007. Comments were noted and edits made prior to the draft being made available for public review. The draft Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was made available for public review on January, 17, 2007. The draft plan was made available on the County website, at the

County Administration Building, located at 1 S. Main St., Mt. Clemens, MI and Freedom Hill County Park, located at 15000 Metro Parkway, Sterling Heights, MI. All those that attended the initial public workshop in October and provided contact information received an email alerting them of the completed draft plan and the upcoming public hearing. The draft plan was also presented to the County Planning Commission at their January 2007 meeting.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an officially noticed public hearing on January 10, 2007. An overview of the planning process, findings, and Action Program were reviewed and public comment taken. Approximately 11 people provided comment on the draft plan. In general, comments included that there is a need for more parks along the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair and more opportunities for children.

ADOPTION

After the public hearing, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended the Recreation and Open Space Master Plan be adopted by resolution at their meeting on January 10, 2007. The Master Plan was then forwarded to the Macomb County Operational Services Committee. The Operational Services Committee recommended by resolution that the Master Plan be adopted at their meeting on _____, 2007. The Macomb County Board of Commissioners adopted the Macomb County Recreation and Open Space Plan by resolution at their regularly scheduled meeting on _____, 2007. (*Appendix A*)

Components of an Action Plan

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and objectives for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space were developed to assist in providing direction to the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Planning and Economic Development Department, and the County Commission. Goals are statements that describe how the County views its own future. They are the long-term ideal or end product that is desired. Goals should meet the following guidelines:

- Provide guidance, but not be too detailed;
- Be realistic and achievable; and,
- Inspire people to action.

Statements of specific goals and recommended objectives are intended to guide the formulation and implementation of the Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. Objective statements below each goal have been established to assist in implementing the overarching

goal. The objectives are intended to be as significant as the capital improvements schedule and serve to provide further guidance and direction to Macomb County over the next five years. It is envisioned that these objectives will be reviewed on a regular basis and be utilized as a tool for decision making in the months and years to come.

The following goals and objectives statements were developed by reviewing language from the County's previous Recreation Master Plan, brainstorming with staff issues the County is facing, and input from the public workshop. They are listed in no particular order of importance or priority.

ACQUISITION GOAL

Actively seek and pursue acquisition of properties in order to preserve open space and expand the County Parks system.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Seek to acquire additional parkland throughout the County including property that:
 - Provides for County parkland in areas where the population is continuing to grow
 - Is located along Lake St. Clair or the Clinton River
 - Includes environmentally sensitive features such as woodlands, wetlands, streams, creeks, etc. and will assist in the preservation and/or restoration of habitat
 - Is adjacent to the Macomb Orchard Trail
 - Provides connections between existing or planned recreation areas and/or other protected land and property
 - Preserves open space of significance to support conservation needs and provide for passive, resource based recreation opportunities
 - Meets both conservation and recreation objectives and provides the Parks system with geographic balance within the County
- 2) Develop open space preservation criteria and ranking system in order to objectively evaluate potential purchases for the expansion of the County Park System, the preservation of open space, and the provision of non-motorized connections of regional and/or county significance.

NATURAL RESOURCES GOAL

Seek to preserve and protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands within the County.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Encourage increased and improved public access to and use of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair.
- 2) Improve aesthetics of Freedom Hill County Park with tree plantings and the establishment of a riparian buffer along the Red Run Drain.
- 3) Improve access and awareness of the Red Run Drain as it traverses alongside Freedom Hill County Park.
- 4) Utilize best management and low impact development practices on park properties including actions such as planting native species, erosion control, infiltration, rain gardens, porous pavers, and soft shoreline stabilization.
- 5) When implementing park improvements and/or acquiring properties, do so in conjunction with the recommendations of the Lake St. Clair Watershed Plan, Clinton River East Watershed Plan, and Red Run Watershed Plan as applicable.
- 6) Increase awareness and education of natural resources on or near County Park properties through interpretive signage.
- 7) Also see "Acquisition" Goal and Objectives.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT/ IMPROVEMENT GOAL

Ensure a highly desirable, utilized, and innovative County Park System by renovating, improving, and maintaining existing facilities and developing new facilities through property acquisition.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Seek opportunities to improve and enhance existing facilities as well as expand recreation facilities, offerings, and opportunities with the County.

MACOMB ORCHARD TRAIL OBJECTIVES

- 1) Interpret the historical significance of the Macomb Orchard Trail as well as the various environmental resources along and near the corridor through signage and kiosks.
- 2) Ensure proper and adequate safety and wayfinding signage and markings are in place along and near the Macomb Orchard Trail for both motorized and non-motorized users.
- 3) Also see "Connectivity" Goal and Objectives.

FREEDOM HILL COUNTY PARK OBJECTIVES

- 1) Improve wayfinding signage at Freedom Hill County Park.
- 2) Improve the overall aesthetics of Freedom Hill County Park including coordinated and complimentary design materials, features, and consideration for motorized and non-motorized circulation.
- 3) Improve access and drainage within and around the wooded area on the western portion of Freedom Hill property for passive recreation and environmental education programming.
- 4) Expand uses on landfill portion of Freedom Hill property contingent upon environmental assessment results.
- 5) Integrate memorials at Freedom Hill Park to ensure design consistency, flow, appropriate setting, and placement.
- 6) Consider a parking consolidation plan at Freedom Hill in order to free up property for additional facilities and/or uses.
- 7) Review potential improvements to enhance the Flea Market offerings and facilities at Freedom Hill County Park.
- 8) Allow for additional recreational uses for children.

OTHER OBJECTIVES

- 1) When acquiring additional properties, ensure the appropriate balance between active and passive recreation based on need, location, capacity of the property, etc.

- 2) Seek to develop overnight camping facility within the County. This may include partnering with other agencies and entities such as the HCMA and/or MDNR. Seek a balance between campsites with amenities and primitive campsites.
- 3) Search for an opportunity to establish a County Park that will provide access to and views of Lake St. Clair.
- 4) Seek opportunities to provide for and encourage the development of mountain biking trails, running trails, snow shoeing, orienteering, geocaching, cross-country skiing, etc.
- 5) Be aware of opportunities to adaptively reuse no longer needed facilities for parks and recreation purposes such as former school properties, gravel pits, etc.
- 6) Look for opportunities to incorporate elements of water and spray parks into existing and/or newly acquired County parkland.
- 7) Ensure future acquisitions and improvements are in tune with the changing demographics and areas of growth within the County.
- 8) Further develop and promote the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair "Blueway Water Trails" concept that is discussed in the County Trailways Master Plan to encourage and promote canoeing, kayaking, fishing, rafting, etc.
- 9) Seek property for the appropriate and sensitive establishment of a Nature Preserve for passive recreation and environmental education.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION GOAL

Ensure a high level of continual maintenance and operation of the County Parks System.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Ensure adequate funding for continued and thorough maintenance of the Macomb Orchard Trail and Freedom Hill.
- 2) When proposing additional facilities, programs, or events, consider and plan for long-term and increased maintenance costs and staffing requirements.

- 3) Utilize materials that deter vandalism and keep long-term maintenance needs at a minimum.
- 4) Continue to utilize volunteer organizations to assist in the maintenance needs and beautification of the County Parks System.

CONNECTIVITY GOAL

Encourage and support the planning, design, and construction of non-motorized connections within the county, particularly those of regional or county significance.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Work closely with the County Road Commission and MDOT to ensure pedestrians and non-motorized users are accommodated when road or bridge projects are planned, designed, and constructed. This includes paved shoulders for cyclists, bike lanes, sidewalks, trail connections, etc.
- 2) Encourage local governments to develop a gap analysis of their current sidewalk and trail system in order to be able to prioritize and implement needed connections.
- 3) Continue to improve and expand upon connections to and from the Macomb Orchard Trail particularly to Riverbends Park, Wolcott Metro Park, Wetzel State Park, St. Clair County, Oakland County, and other points of interest.
- 4) Develop additional trailhead and staging areas along the length of the Macomb Orchard Trail in order to better accommodate and provide for multiple access points and trips of varying lengths.
- 5) Establish non-motorized connections within Freedom Hill Park and connecting to the Freedom Trail along Metropolitan Parkway.
- 6) Organize and assist in a variety of promotional events and programming (such as annual trail runs) on the Macomb Orchard Trail in order to increase awareness and use of the amenity.
- 7) Continue to lead and organize a county-wide group of interested stakeholders to meet, discuss, and coordinate a variety of issues regarding non-motorized systems.

FUNDING GOAL

Aggressively pursue alternative funding sources in order to improve, maintain, and expand the Macomb County Parks System.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Establish a permanent fund for continuous and thorough maintenance of the Macomb Orchard Trail.
- 2) Investigate the feasibility of establishing a County-wide millage for the purpose of acquiring properties within the County for the protection of natural resources and the preservation of open space.
- 3) Seek assistance from alternative funding sources such as grants from public and private entities, individual and corporate donations, sponsorships, fund-raising events, and other activities.

PARTNERSHIPS GOAL

Encourage, promote, and foster cooperative relationships with other public and private parks and recreation providers and interests in order to provide for high quality, comprehensive recreation opportunities within Macomb County.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) As resources continue to be stretched, partnerships with other agencies, groups, and entities is becoming more and more important. Seek partnerships in the provision of parks and recreation opportunities with groups such as:
 - Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
 - Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 - Selfridge Air National Guard Base
 - Local Governments
 - Land Conservancies
 - Clinton River Watershed Council
 - Other County Departments
 - Volunteer Organizations
 - Friends Groups
 - Private Entities and Recreation Providers
 - Non-Profit Agencies
- 2) Develop partnerships and communicate with other recreation providers, and particularly local governments within the County so as not to duplicate services.

- 3) Seek partnerships in order to increase the amount and type of recreational equipment rentals within the County including bikes, horses, canoes, kayaks, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY GOAL

Improve communication and marketing efforts regarding Macomb County Parks and Recreation in order to ensure awareness of facility, program, and event offerings and advocate the benefits of recreation and open space.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Better utilize local cable access television, regional and local newspapers, and school and church bulletins, to communicate offerings, facilities, and events.
- 2) Provide local governments with County Parks information to insert into their local newsletters or post on local websites.
- 3) Effectively and efficiently utilize the internet and email to communicate with interested parties.
- 4) Communicate with residents and local entities the efforts and results associated with the County Trailways Master Plan, Green Infrastructure Planning, Watershed Management Planning, Seniors Study, and other associated and related efforts.
- 5) Encourage local governments to develop recreation and open space plans that address local issues and needs, protect natural resources, preserve community character, and identify a network of green infrastructure.
- 6) Encourage local governments and private developers to pursue creative development techniques such as cluster zoning, open space preservation, and the provision of non-motorized connections.
- 7) Communicate recreation opportunities available within the County by both public and private providers such as charter fishing, skydiving, horseback riding, rentals, annual races and events, etc.

SEE FIGURE 6-A
IN MAPS FOLDER

SEE FIGURE 6-B
IN MAPS FOLDER

Freedom Hill County Park

Master Plan Objectives

Outline

1. Primary Design Objectives

- a. Take full advantage of the park's natural and cultural resources to create a park that will serve a variety of uses from the most passive to largest festivals and events
- b. Improve the overall legibility of the park with clear design guidelines and improvements to the pattern of vehicular and pedestrian circulation
- c. Restore habitat and improve the quality of the landscaping to reinforces these ideals

2. General Park Improvements

- a. Provide a landscaped boulevard with improved way-finding and two points of access to Metro Parkway
- b. Reduce or eliminate parking from the central park area
- c. Improve quantity and quality of landscaping throughout the park, particularly at entrances to the park and major park use areas and buildings
- d. Provide an irrigation system for new and existing plantings
- e. Provide a more contiguous and connected pedestrian circulation system with uniform materials, lighting and signage for both interpretation and way-finding
- f. Create enclaves for more passive park use
- g. Improve ADA compliance throughout the park
- h. Increase the non-event functionality of the park
- i. Implement storm-water BMP's for new and existing impervious services
- j. Provide screen plantings at service areas such as: maintenance yard, Freedom Hill loading docks, and utilities

3. Memorial Area Improvements

- a. Provide a more contemplative setting for existing and proposed memorials
- b. Route major pedestrian circulation around memorial area
- c. Provide landscaping to create a sense of enclosure
- d. Improve the layout of memorials to provide room for expansion
- e. Unify construction materials and furnishing at individual memorials to improve overall aesthetics and uniformity of design
- f. Provide a central gathering space, possibly with

a fountain and repurposing of the jet.

- g. Consider gateways to memorial garden area
- h. Provide additional screening for festival area and Liberato Hall restrooms

- i. Consider a direct pedestrian connection to the Macomb County Freedom Trail
- j. Relocate the tank to within the memorial garden area

4. Festival Grounds

- a. Permanent food concession and office building
- b. Improve aesthetics
- c. Relocate/remove office trailer
- d. Consider permanent food concession booths
- e. Provide additional parking
- f. Build additional restroom facilities

5. New Maintenance Yard and Building

- a. Minimal 40'x60' building
- b. Complete with water and sewer
- c. Areas for working on equipment, and equipment storage.
- d. Location for staff lockers, break room, and restroom facility
- e. Safer work area for staff

6. Landfill Area

- a. Continue environmental clean-up delineate "areas of concern"
- b. Possible ball fields
- c. Provide water and electric service
- d. Acquire DTE property
- e. Consider a 2000 car parking garage, use grade change to minimize visual impacts

7. Ralph A. Liberato Building Improvements

- a. Remodeling the building, flooring and walls in all rooms
- b. Landscape around the building
- c. Define building usage
- d. Consider more programmed park activities and Increase the daily user amenities

8. Natural Areas

- a. Provide trails and boardwalks
- b. Consider interpretive signs and pathways
- c. Improve wetland/forest habitats
- d. Possible access to Red Run
- e. Survey wetland boundaries
- f. Create an ash tree removal strategy

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE

Project	Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Sources
Acquisition of properties to preserve open space						TBD	MDNR, LWCF, Endowments, Millages
Acquisition of properties to expand county park system in areas or along Clinton River or Lake St. Clair						TBD	MDNR, LWCF, Endowments, Millages
Protect natural resources or environmentally sensitive areas						TBD	MDNR, LWCF, Endowments, Millages
Improve Freedom Hill w/tree plantings and riparian buffer along Red Run Drain						TBD	MDNR, DTE
Employ "Low Impact Development" practices at Macomb County park facilities						TBD	MDOT, MDEQ/319/CWI
Heritage interpretation signage along Macomb Orchard Trail / Freedom Hill						\$50,000-60,000	MDNR, DALMAC, REI, CMAQ
Employ Safety / Wayfinding Details along Macomb Orchard Trail						65,000*	GW, CZM, MDOT, DALMAC, REI, KODAK,
Improvements to Freedom Hill County Park based on Concept Plan						TBD	MDNR, LWCF
Seek to develop overnight camping facilities within Macomb County						TBD	MDNR, LWCF, Endowments, Millages, TPL
Develop proper funding mechanisms for maintenance of Macomb Orchard Trail						\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000 Endowment Fund - Use interest for Annual Budget	CFSEM/Donations
Support the planning / development of non-motorized connections within Macomb County						TBD	MDNR, LWCF, BB, CZM, MDOT, Mill., DALMAC, TPL, Kodak, SRS, CMAQ, Endow
Pursue viable funding sources to improve, maintain, and expand the Macomb County parks system						TBD	Staff
Look to foster cooperative relationships with other public or private parks and recreation providers to provide greater level of services for the public						TBD	Staff
Improve communication and marketing efforts regarding county parks and recreation opportunities						TBD	Staff
* Money already secured through GWI grant.							

Funding Sources Abbreviations (See Funding Opportunities Section)

GW: GreenWays Initiative
MDNR: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund
CZM: Coastal Zone Management (MDEQ)
MDOT: Transportation Enhancement Funds
DALMAC: Tri-County Bicycle Association
REI: REI Stores Small Grants Program
BB: Bikes Belong of the American Bicycle Industry
TPL: The Trust for Public Land
Kodak: Kodak, National Geographic Society, and the Conservation Fund.
MDEQ/319/CWI: Michigan 319 and Clean Water Initiative
SRS: Safe Routes to School (MDOT)
CMAQ: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program
Endowment Funds: Establish Local Endowment
Millages: Local Taxing Corporations

KEY

Years that do not require action.

Years that may include action.

A scenic photograph of a lake framed by large trees with green leaves. In the foreground, a picnic table is visible on a grassy area. The lake extends to the horizon under a cloudy sky. A semi-transparent green box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text "FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES".

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



F U N D I N G

The ability to see beauty is the beginning of our moral sensibility. What we believe is beautiful we will not wantonly destroy.

Reverend Sean Parker Dennison, *Ministrare*, 2-10-05

Macomb County Recreation & Open Space Plan

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Potential funding sources from outside entities for recreation, non-motorized, acquisition, and environmental restoration projects change and evolve on a regular basis. Understanding available funding programs, their requirements and deadlines requires continuous monitoring. A few of the more common funding sources have been detailed here as a reference and resource. These are in addition to traditional funding methods such as the general fund.

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

The MNRTF provides funding for both the purchase of land (or interests in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty and the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation use. Goals of the program are to: 1) protect Michigan's natural resources and provide for their access, public use and enjoyment; 2) provide public access to Michigan's water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use; 3) meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities; 4) improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's urban areas; and, 5) stimulate Michigan's economy through recreation-related tourism and community revitalization.

Any individual, group, organization, or unit of government may submit a land acquisition proposal. However, only state and local units of government can submit development proposals. All proposals for grants must include a local match of at least 25% of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April for development projects. Potential revisions to the Trust Goals and Evaluation Criteria are currently being discussed at the state level.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service who distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Due to limited funds within this program, the MDNR has focused funding

on outdoor development projects. Applications are due in April and the LWCF program requires a 50% local match. The LWCF program utilizes the same application as the MNRTF program.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (MDEQ)

The Coastal Zone Management Program is administered through the Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and provides grants and technical assistance to coastal communities to promote effective coastal management. Funds can be used for planning activities, site design, engineering, feasibility and natural features studies, historic preservation projects, coastal education materials, developing portions or local zoning ordinances, master planning of coastal significance, waterfront redevelopment studies, and low-cost construction projects such as resource protection, trails, boardwalks, overlooks, interpretive displays, etc. Each shoreline community located within the coastal boundary are eligible to apply. Approximately 40 projects are approved each year, ranging up to \$50,000 of federal funding. Funds must be matched 1:1.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS (MDOT)

Transportation Enhancements (TE) activities are federally funded, community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the transportation infrastructure. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the 12 TE activities and relate to surface transportation. Activities that relate to the implementation of this Master Plan include:

- *Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.* Includes new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, bus racks, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges and underpasses.
 - Paved shoulders four or more feet wide
 - Curb lane width greater than 12 feet
 - Bike lanes
 - Pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks
 - Shared use paths 10 feet wide or greater
 - Path/trail user amenities

- Grade separations
- Bicycle parking facilities
- Bicycle accommodations on public transportation
- *Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.* Programs designed to encourage walking and bicycling by providing potential users with education and safety instruction through classes, pamphlets and signage.
- *Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian and bicycle trails).* Acquiring railroad rights-of-way; planning, designing and constructing multi-use trails; developing rail-with-trail projects; purchasing unused railroad property for reuse.

A minimum 20% local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted on an on-going basis and submitted online.

ACCESS TO RECREATION

Access to Recreation projects will provide universal access for people of all abilities to a wide variety of recreation opportunities, such as nature viewing and photography areas, hiking trails, scenic outlooks, waterfalls and water activities of all kinds, beaches, fishing and boating, playgrounds, picnic areas, campgrounds, and much more. There are two primary grant programs under this project:

- *Recreation Access Matching Grant*
Provides up to 50% matching funds (up to \$10,000) for the purchase of universally accessible recreation equipment and materials (such as all terrain hiking wheelchairs, pool lifts, accessible playground surface, transfer systems, beach access mats, trail surface enhancements, accessible picnic tables, etc.) that enhance recreation participation by people with disabilities.
- *Accessible by Design Awards*
Designed to stimulate the development of creative universally designed recreation experiences that invite, welcome and support the inclusion of all people of all abilities. Winning designs will demonstrate how going above and beyond the minimum requirements of the ADA can create greater access and usability for all people of all abilities in the community.

Winning designs will be awarded cash prizes to build the projects. Awards up to \$250,000 and 25% minimum match.

DALMAC FUND

Established in 1975 to promote bicycling in Michigan, the DALMAC Fund is administered by the Tri-County Bicycle Association and supported by proceeds from DALMAC. The DALMAC Fund supports safety and education programs, bicycle trail development, state-wide bicycle organizations, and route mapping projects. Applications must be submitted between January 1st and March 15th. They are reviewed by the DALMAC Fund Committee and approved by the Board. Grants are made between June and August of the year they were submitted. Applications can be found at www.biketcba.org.

REI, INC.

The outdoor store and company, REI, Inc., dedicates a portion of its operating profits to help protect and restore the environment, increase access to outdoor activities, and encourage involvement in muscle-powered recreation. REI employees nominate organizations, projects, and programs in which they are personally involved to receive funding or gear donations. REI does not accept unsolicited grant requests and proposals. The company calls on their employees to nominate non-profit organizations for REI grants. Recent grants range from \$2,000 to \$25,000.

BIKES BELONG

The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories:

- Facility
- Education
- Capacity Building

Requests for funding can be up to \$10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and transit, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis. More information can be found at www.bikesbelong.org.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Founded in 1972, the Trust for Public Land is the only national nonprofit working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being. TPL helps conserve land for recreation and spiritual nourishment and to improve the health and quality of life of American communities. TPL's legal and real estate special-

ists work with landowners, government agencies and community groups to:

- Create urban parks, gardens, greenways, and riverways
- Build livable communities by setting aside open space in the path of growth
- Conserve land for watershed protection, scenic beauty, and close-to-home recreation
- Safeguard the character of communities by preserving historic landmarks and landscapes. In the past few years, the TPL has assisted with several projects in Michigan, including financial assistance to ensure the acquisition of the Macomb Orchard Trail.

KODAK GRANTS PROGRAM

Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provide small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. The annual grants program was instituted in response to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors recommendation to establish a national network of greenways. Made possible by a grant from Eastman Kodak, the program also honors groups and individuals whose ingenuity and creativity foster the creation of greenways. The application period typically runs from March 1st through June 1st. Grants may be used for activities such as: mapping, ecological assessments, surveying, conferences, design activities, developing brochures, interpretive displays, planning, hiring consultants, etc. Maximum grant is \$2,500, however, most grants range from \$500 to \$1,500. For more information go to www.conservationfund.org.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY : NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL GRANTS – CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE AND 319 PROGRAM

The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program is to: (1) proactively reduce and prevent nonpoint sources of pollution in order to provide for healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystems, protect public health, and enhance environmentally compatible recreation opportunities, (2) develop public recognition of the value of Michigan's lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater, and (3) encourage stewardship of these resources.

The CMI and 319 programs are water quality grants

offered by the Environmental Science and Services Division (ESSD) of the MDEQ utilizing funding from Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act, and from the Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants and Clean Water Fund. Approximately \$2.6 million from federal funding and approximately \$3.1 million of CMI funding was available in 2006. Completed proposals for funding are due to the MDEQ in March. The programs cover three categories of project types:

1. Projects for the development of watershed management plans. Plans developed under this category must meet DEQ and United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) criteria on watershed management planning.
2. Projects implementing elements of approved watershed management plans which control nonpoint sources of pollution. Watershed plans must meet USEPA criteria and be previously approved under the Clean Michigan Initiative criteria.
3. Projects implementing water quality elements contained in plans developed under a Watershed-Based Municipal Storm Water Permit (Voluntary Storm Water Permit).

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Safe Routes To School Program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. When routes are safe, walking or biking to and from school is an easy way to get the regular physical activity children need to succeed. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and has gained momentum over the past few years. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan's SR2S program will make schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns. The purpose of the program as defined in the federal legislation is:

- (1) to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- (2) to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- (3) to facilitate the planning, development, and

implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The program authorizes \$612 million over the 5 fiscal years beginning with 2005. The Michigan Department of Transportation estimates that Michigan's total apportionment over the 5 years will be roughly \$19 million. Schools must be registered, attend a day long training session, and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal; no match is required. 70% of the funding must be used for infrastructure projects, 10% for non-infrastructure projects, and 20% for either. www.safer-outesmichigan.org

CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CMAQ)

The CMAQ program was created to reduce congestion on local streets and improve air quality. Funds are available to urban communities designated as "non-attainment" areas for air quality, meaning the air is more polluted than federal standards allow. Pedestrian and bicycle projects are eligible projects for CMAQ funding. SEMCOG coordinates the Detroit region CMAQ applications. Typically, a call for projects is issued in the fall with final applications due in December. Contact SEMCOG Transportation Programs for additional information. 313.324.3321.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Endowment funds are received from a donor(s) with the restriction that the original principal is not expendable. The income from the principal may either be restricted or unrestricted as designated by the donor(s) or responsible agency. Many times only a portion of the annual investment is used for the designated purpose; the rest of the investment yield is returned to principal. Therefore, over time, the fund can grow and hopefully keep pace with inflation. Endowment funds can be charitable partnerships between the County and civic-spirited individuals, families, foundations, organizations, and companies to improve, maintain, and operate various recreation facilities.

MILLAGES

Funds are raised by leveling a millage (tax) for specific projects or purposes. One "mill" equals \$1.00 of property taxes for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Many government entities have successfully passed millages in order to provide specific funds for things such as land acquisition, park improvements, capital



APPENDIX A



A P P E N D I X A

The genius of the United States is not best or most in its executives or legislatures, nor in its ambassadors or authors or colleges, or churches, or parlors, nor even in its newspapers or inventors, but always most in the common people.

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

SUMMARY

Public Workshop October 10, 2006

Macomb County held a public workshop in the evening of October 10th at the Macomb Intermediate School District in order to gather input regarding the update of the Recreation and Open Space Plan. Approximately 23 people attended the workshop and several emails were also received. The goals for the workshop were to:

- Raise awareness that Macomb County is working on updating the 5-year Recreation & Open Space Plan.
- Gather public input as it relates to:
 - o Desires for additional County Parks
 - o Desires, issues, and concerns regarding the Macomb Orchard Trail
 - o Desires, issues, and concerns regarding Freedom Hill
- Begin to gauge the public's priorities for the County Park System.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Gerry Santoro, Macomb County Planning and Economic Development, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The goals for the workshop were reviewed as was the agenda.

II. Project Overview

Leah Groya, Wade Trim, provided an overview of why the County was conducting an update of their 5-year Recreation Master Plan. A brief review of the planning process was given indicating that the County had already begun work on conducting background studies, and after gathering public input will develop an Action Plan. The draft plan will then be made available for public review, an official public hearing will be held, and then the plan adopted by the Recreation Commission and County Board. The public hearing is slated for February 2007 and adoption in March.

Leah and Gerry provided an overview of the two existing County recreation facilities: Freedom Hill County Park and the Macomb Orchard Trail. Gerry also reviewed other related County efforts that have an affect on Parks, Recreation, and Open Space. These included the County Trailways Master Plan, Green Infrastructure Planning, Watershed Management Plans, and a Seniors Study.

III. Brainstorming Session

A Brainstorming Menu was distributed to participants. Attendees were asked to take 10 minutes to brainstorm their ideas and concerns as they relate to three different topics:

- o Additional County Parks/Activities
- o The Macomb Orchard Trail
- o Freedom Hill County Park

The menu was provided merely as a list of items to jump start the brainstorming process.

IV. Document Public Desires, Issues & Concerns (Expansion of County Park System)

After time was given to brainstorm, everyone was asked to present their thoughts and/or ideas regarding expansion of the County Park System. The following list is a compilation of the thoughts discussed and captured. Those with a number next to them indicate those ideas that received a vote (everyone was given 2 dot stickers per topic (total of 6 stickers)) at the end of the workshop.

- o Acquire as much open space as possible (9)
- o Partnerships w/Local Govts./Land Conservancies Especially In North part of County (8)
- o Overnight Camping (Natural camp sites) (6)
- o Additional Parkland Needed in Northern Portion of County Where Population is Growing (4)
- o Widen County Roads for Ped./Bike (3)
- o Publicize/Market Park Facilities and Programs (2)
- o County Waterfront Parks (2)
- o Don't Duplicate Services with Local Governments (1)
- o Public/Private Cooperation (1)
- o Adaptive Reuse of properties and/or structures (1)
- o Funding Sources (1)

- o Water Parks
- o Pools
- o Know Demographics of the County
- o Gap Analysis of Sidewalks/Trails
- o Overpasses retrofitted for non-motorized
- o Cut Through Politics
- o Encourage Clinton River Access and Use
- o Greenways – Destination Points- Pub/Pvt
- o Acquire Wetzel State Park and/or cooperatively manage and program
- o Develop “Blueway Water Trails”
- o Nature Preserve
- o 22 Mile / Heidenreich for Passive Uses
- o Equipment Rentals (Bikes, Horses, Canoes, Kayaking, etc.)
- o Rentals
- o Wolcott
- o RV Shows
- o Clinton River/L.S.C.
- o Potentially Use Selfridge Property?

V. Document Public Desires, Issues & Concerns (Macomb Orchard Trail & Freedom Hill)

Participants were then asked to present their thoughts and/or ideas regarding the Macomb Orchard Trail and Freedom Hill County Park. The following list is a compilation of the thoughts discussed and captured. Those with a number next to them indicate those ideas that received a vote (via dot sticker) at the end of the workshop.

Macomb Orchard Trail

- o Connectivity Issues (18)
- o Develop Staging/Parking Areas along the Trail (9)
- o Ensure Continued Maintenance/Funding (7)
- o Interpret Historical Significance (Kiosks) (1)
- o Safety Signage w/Motorized (1)
- o Connect with Wolcott/Riverbends
- o There is Limited Parking @ N. Branch Trestle Bridge
- o Acquire Properties for trailheads and parking
- o Restrooms
- o Picnicking
- o Interpretive Signs
- o Wayfinding
- o Romeo DPW potential trailhead
- o Romeo Downtown Road Commission potential trailhead
- o Paint Crosswalks
- o No Turn on Red for vehicles at intersections with the MOT

Freedom Hill County Park

- o Interior Ped/Bike Path and Connect with Freedom Trail (14)
- o Plant Trees/Oasis/Buffer (11)
- o Red Run Linkages (5)
- o Wayfinding – Educational Programming (3)
- o Improve Aesthetics (2)
- o Reconsider Future Development (1)
- o Expand Uses on Landfills (1)
- o Boardwalk/Seating in Wooded Wetlands
- o No More Memorials
- o Consolidate Memorials

- o Consider Parking Garage/Consolidation Plan
- o Money Direct for Recreation

VI. Wrap Up and Next Steps

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and input at the workshop. The County will keep the information on the sign-in sheets and, for those that provided contact information, the County will ensure they are made aware when the draft plan is ready for public review. The results of the public workshop will be used to assist the County formulate an action plan for parks, recreation, and open space.

VII. Additional Input

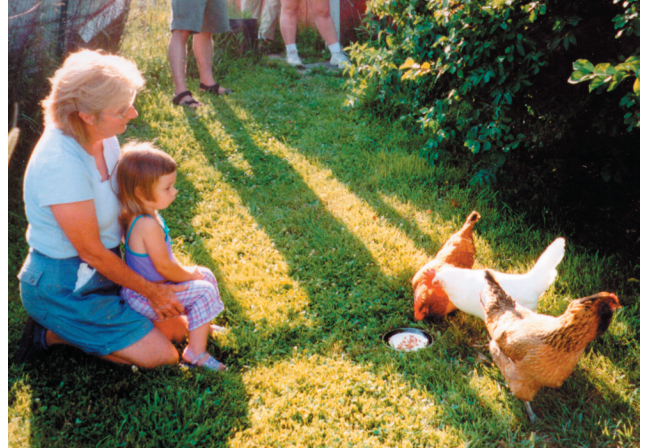
When scheduling and advertising the public workshop for the Master Plan, the County indicated that comments and input could be called, faxed, or emailed in as well. The County received input from several individuals as is summarized below:

- o Focus on land acquisition for development of more parks in the County
- o County is deficient in parkland
- o Investigate feasibility of purchasing Marsack Gravel Pit in Roseville when available.
- o Would be nice to have Macomb County Parks and Recreation become known for their parks in much the same way as Wayne, Oakland and Genesee County Parks.
- o A permanent structure and expanded hours for the Flea Market to meet the needs of handicapped, elderly, and special needs residents on the NW lawn area of Freedom Hill.
- o Find the flea market to be enterprising, family oriented, community friendly, and an asset to Macomb County. Favor the 5 year plan for this enterprise.
- o Flea Market customers include people from Marine City, Oakland County, Royal Oak, Armada, and Wayne County.
- o Flea Market is biggest ambassador for Macomb County and the Park.
- o Want to expand the Flea Market to a year round Market.
- o Identification of the Clinton River as a major recreational asset for the County/Region (kayaking, canoeing, rafting, tubing, fishing, etc.)
- o Recognition of opportunity for increasingly popular alternative sport opportunities (mountain biking, trail running, snow shoeing, orienteering, geocaching, etc.) throughout the county's floodplain/upland areas - including the Clinton River Spillway.
- o Opportunities for cross-country skiing, sledding, and ice-skating.
- o Opportunities for increased lake access.
- o Opportunities for increased camping opportunities.
- o Opportunities for charter fishing, scuba diving, snorkeling.
- o Opportunities for hunting.
- o Opportunities for horseback riding.
- o Recognition of passive recreation opportunities (bird watching, wildlife viewing, fall color tours, etc.).
- o Recognition of local airports providing recreation (skydiving and other extreme sports, recreational pilot classes, etc.).
- o Recognition of ongoing, annual races (running, road/mountain bike, adventure, etc.).
- o Recognition of regional assets (example: we may not have downhill skiing in the county proper, however, there are four ski centers (Alpine, Mt. Holly, Pine Knob, and Mt. Brighton) w/in 35 minutes.
- o Need a more in depth survey of county residents (beyond the community forums) by age cohort to determine what recreational opportunities residents actually prefer. Broader assessment is necessary to ensure that facilities being developed are the correct kind and will be used by greater numbers of residents.
- o Increased access to the lake and Clinton River. Need to identify the types of recreation users want to participate in on either the lake or river.
- o Provide to residents information on the public organizations and private businesses in the County that rent equipment (canoes, kayaks, bikes, boats, etc.) that can be used to explore the County's recreational amenities.

- o The county should offer bike rentals along trails in key locations - access points and community parks.
- o Because the County provides so few recreational amenities itself, it would be a good idea to better promote recreational opportunities within our communities and region.
- o With the completion of the Macomb Orchard Trail the county should establish an annual marathon.
- o The county should work with HCMA to redevelop Metro Beach into a facility that can become the cornerstone of recreation in the county. The park needs to be redesigned to take greater advantage of the waterfront and should be developed into a grander Olmstead like park - with additional green space and grander public spaces.
- o The county should work to develop a bike plan to provide connections between existing trails and provide users with additional transportation options.
- o Macomb County should work to develop a festival or event that celebrates Lake St. Clair. Could be in the form of a sailboat race or more family friendly activity.
- o Opportunities for camping - partner with HCMA
- o The eastern lakeshore usage as public area, with walkways and scenic spots
- o More local publicity about the review process as residents in some areas are still not aware of their ability to respond -use of school and church newsletters
- o Biking, kayaking and use of the interior waterways needs expansion and cooperation between municipalities and private industry
- o More annual events for runners, bikers and boaters, cross-country skiers and other winter sports enthusiasts
- o Hunting opportunities in the northern communities could be marketed- more small business opportunities



APPENDIX B



A P P E N D I X B

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